



Biddenham Parish Council hosted the Annual Parish meeting on Tuesday, 19th April 2022 at 7.00pm upstairs at Biddenham Pavilion.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

This was a meeting hosted by the parish council on behalf of the residents of Biddenham.

- 1 **Welcome from the Parish Council Chairman – Stewart Briggs**
Cllr Briggs welcomed the following councillors and three parishioners to the meeting: Cllrs Graham Bates, Irina Madan Sau, Kzrys Osuch, Harry Fowler, Peter Chase, Chris Gee and Karen Cotton.
- 2 **To approve the Minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting** held on 20th April 2021.
It was agreed that these minutes accurately reflected this meeting.
- 3 **Biddenham Pavilion – Report from Deborah Slade (Pavilion Manager) read by the Clerk**
The full report can be found in the appendix.
- 4 **Any Other Group or Individual**
 - Parishioner 1: Spoke requesting the parish council provide an area for allotments in Biddenham. This parishioner is on the list for an allotments in Bromham, but is not expecting one to become available for some time. The Clerk will investigate if any land might be available for the parish council to purchase for this purpose.
 - Parishioner 2 – representing Biddenham Conservation Group: Spoke to suggest potential locations for allotments: agreed to meet the Clerk for a site visit of those locations. He thanked the council for a grant this year for the group for insurance and for paying to service the pond mower. The group were busy this year planting trees for the Queen's Green Canopy project. He raised concerns about loose dogs disturbing wildlife in the pond area and a future concern for the new green space at Duck End Lane, which is being created by Dandara alongside the new development at Gold Lane. He also raised the lack of access to the meadows by the river; public access is restricted by the grazier.
 - Parishioner 3: Spoke to raise the issue of traffic blocking the A6 roundabout by St James Way at St Mary's. Parishioner agreed to send a picture of the issue to the Clerk who would then ask BBC Highways what could be done to resolve the issue.
- 5 **Biddenham Parish Council – Chairman's Report – Stewart Briggs**
The full report can be found in the appendix.

Biddenham Pavilion Report April 2022

We are now back to full operation following the Covid restrictions/lockdowns and I am pleased to say we have not had to report any cases to hall users due to covid not being present in the hall. I would like to thank all our users for being vigilant and following the necessary guidelines.

Oakley Football club had a very successful season and we didn't receive any complaints from local residents which is great news – I think the one age group tactic works. Biddenham Cricket starts there season at the end of this month and we wish them every success.

I am also pleased to say we have got back to full strength with our hirings, if not slightly more.

Our income for each year was :

2019/2020 (pre covid - 12 months)	Regular Hirings	£18,670.00
	One Offs	£3,294.00
	Total	£21,967.00 (£1,830.58 monthly average)
2020/2021 (4 months – covid year)	Regular Hirers	£7,725.00
2021/2022 (post covid - June 21 – Mar 22)	Regular Hirers	£18,053.00
	One Offs	£4,065.00
	Total	£21,118.00 (£2,111.80 monthly average)

We are currently on target to get an income of £22,500 for the year April 2022 – March 2023, this excludes potential income for August 22 – March 23 for one offs as we currently do not have any bookings for this period. Therefore I would hope that our average income for 2022/2023 would be £2,100 per month which is similar to last year.

Maintenance

Work carried out:

Side Door Smart Lock installed - May 2021

Expansion Tank Replacement - June 2021

Heating System Service - June 2021

Website Live - September 2021

Main hall radiators replaced - October 2021

New Kitchen equipment installed (cooker, freezer, microwave, kettle, cutlery) - October 2021

New Lock for Boiler Room - October 2021

Heating System Valves replaced - March 2022

Hearing Loop Installed - March 2022

Over the early months of this year we have had an electrical inspection whereby all the electrics in the building have been checked and any faults/repairs needed have been brought to our attention – David should have this report in full.

The plumber has fitted new radiators in the main hall and I am pleased to say they work amazingly, even to the extent whereby we have had hirers mention that they are too hot – I don't think I have ever witnessed that 😊

We do, however, have ongoing issues with the heating system. The plumber has pinpointed, after weeks of testing, that 3 of the 5 systems have pressure issues which therefore mean they do not come on, (lobby area, cricket changing rooms and kitchen/Hallway) the only solution is to either not run these systems at all, decommission the old pipework and re-lay new pipework externally, or replace the existing pipework which would mean taking up all the floors but this would be very costly. I am due to meet up with the plumber after his holidays and discuss the routes the new external pipework would take and pricing.

I am pleased to report that the new smart lock is working great and from a security point of view works well as hirers only have access for their specific hire times.

The website is working really well and it has reduced my time dealing with enquiries and availability – together with the smart lock the pavilion is now fairly autonomous.

Wifi is proving useful by our regular hirers.

In the last few weeks a Hearing Loop has been installed in the main hall, the response has been good from the announcement but I am yet to hear feedback as to how it is working.

Weekly Defibrillator checks are being carried out regularly using the online system by our caretaker Kate Horton along with the other weekly fire alarm and lighting checks. Our cleaner is carrying on with her duties as required. We have managed to find a very good temporary 'step in' cleaner should there be any holiday clashes.

The Biddenham Show Committee are currently using our meeting room for the weekly progress meetings – they will take place up until the Show in early September.

New Items:

I would like to freshen up the inside of the pavilion (main hall/lobby/kitchen/sidehall) with a refresh of paint. I would also like to refit the front lobby to include the existing coat storage area plus a 'reception desk' as this would allow our regular hirers to 'book in' their clients in a more professional way – currently they use a table and chair (which has to be got out and put back) from the hall cupboard. I am still to get quotes for this to be approved.

Forum 71 who hire our hall once per month October – March have raised the issue that the new oven does not suit their needs as their caterers find it too small to cater for their monthly dinners. We took the decision to replace the old oven as it was very old and dirty and didn't look like it was being used, we also felt it was quite intimidating for the 'normal' every day hirer to use. We decided to acquire a smaller single oven for ease of use for our regular and one off hirers as it would be more familiar for the average hirer to operate. We are currently in conversation with Forum 71 regarding this issue to help find a solution.

I hope this has been an informative report. I have attached is a timetable of a typical week/month for your information.

Thank you 😊

JUNE	DATE	AM ACTIVITY	PM ACTIVITY	EVENING	CRICKET	TF	TF O/T	KH	KH O/T	INCOME	OUTGOINGS	
Wednesday	1	Kensington Ballet 9.30-11am	Table Tennis 2-4pm	HIT Fitness 6.30-7.30pm			HOLIDAY			45.00	0.00	
Thursday	2	Line Dancing 9.30-11.30am		Fetch Club 7.30 - 8.30pm	CORNELIA TO CLEAN	4					45.00	42.60
Friday	3	Jo Jingles 9.30-12.30pm	Brushstrokes 2.15-4.15pm	Storm 6.30-8pm					2		22.50	21.30
Saturday	4											0.00
Sunday	5	EAT FEAST UK JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 10am - 9pm			CORNELIA TO CLEAN	4					200.00	40.00
Monday	6	Angie - Yoga 10-11.30am	Gentle Yoga - 2-3pm	Storm 7-8pm	Biddenham Show Committee 8-9.30pm 1470			1		52.50	10.65	
Tuesday	7	Over 50's Fitness 10-12pm		Zumba 8-9pm	6pm					30.00	0.00	
Wednesday	8	Kensington Ballet 10-11am	Table Tennis 2-4pm	HIT Fitness 6.30-7.30pm						60.00	0.00	
Thursday	9	Line Dancing 9.30-11.30am		Fetch Club 7.30 - 8.30pm	6pm	4				45.00	42.60	
Friday	10	Jo Jingles 9.30-12.30pm	Brushstrokes 2.15-4.15pm	Storm 6.30-8pm				2		97.50	21.30	
Saturday	11	Socatots 9-11.15pm	Lucy Hunt School of Dance 2-3.30pm							56.25	0.00	
Sunday	12				10am & 1pm	4				60.00	42.60	
Monday	13	Angie - Yoga 10-11.30am	Gentle Yoga - 2-3pm	Storm 7-8pm	Biddenham Show Committee 8-9.30pm 1470			1		52.50	10.65	
Tuesday	14	Over 50's Fitness 10-12pm		Zumba 8-9pm	6pm					30.00	0.00	
Wednesday	15	Kensington Ballet 10-11am	Table Tennis 2-4pm	HIT Fitness 6.30-7.30pm						60.00	0.00	
Thursday	16	Line Dancing 9.30-11.30am		Fetch Club 7.30 - 8.30pm	6pm	4				45.00	42.60	
Friday	17	Jo Jingles 9.30-12.30pm	Brushstrokes 2.15-4.15pm	Storm 6.30-8pm				2		97.50	21.30	
Saturday	18	Socatots 9-11.15pm	Lucy Hunt School of Dance 2-3.30pm							56.25	0.00	
Sunday	19				10am	4					42.60	
Monday	20	Angie - Yoga 10-11.30am	Gentle Yoga - 2-3pm	Storm 7-8pm	Biddenham Show Committee 8-9.30pm 1470			1		52.50	10.65	
Tuesday	21	Over 50's Fitness 10-12pm		Zumba 8-9pm	6pm					30.00	0.00	
Wednesday	22	Kensington Ballet 10-11am	Table Tennis 2-4pm	HIT Fitness 6.30-7.30pm						60.00	0.00	
Thursday	23	Line Dancing 9.30-11.30am		Fetch Club 7.30 - 8.30pm	6pm	4				45.00	42.60	
Friday	24	Jo Jingles 9.30-12.30pm	Brushstrokes 2.15-4.15pm	Storm 6.30-8pm				2		97.50	21.30	
Saturday	25	Socatots 9-11.15pm	Lucy Hunt School of Dance 2-3.30pm							56.25	0.00	
Sunday	26				10am & 1pm	4				60.00	42.60	
Monday	27	Angie - Yoga 10-11.30am	Gentle Yoga - 2-3pm	Storm 7-8pm	Biddenham Show Committee 8-9.30pm 1470					52.50	0.00	
Tuesday	28	Over 50's Fitness 10-12pm		Zumba 8-9pm	6pm			1		30.00	10.00	
Wednesday	29	Kensington Ballet 10-11am	Table Tennis 2-4pm	HIT Fitness 6.30-7.30pm						60.00	0.00	
Thursday	30	Line Dancing 9.30-11.30am		Fetch Club 7.30 - 8.30pm	6pm	4				45.00	40.00	
						36	0	12	0	1643.75	505.35	

Car Park 22 550

2193.75

Biddenham Parish Council - Annual Parish Meeting 2022

There is a requirement for an Annual Parish meeting to be held which is open to all electors of the parish. Electors have the right not only to attend but also to speak on any matter of local interest. This year the meeting was held on Tuesday 19th April 2022. Interestingly the Annual Parish meeting is a legacy from the Middle Ages, when local councils did not exist, and all local decision making was carried out by meetings of the whole community.

The Annual Parish meeting also provides an opportunity for the Parish Council to report back to parishioners on what it has been doing over the previous year, and listen to feedback and concerns raised by residents. This is my report for the Annual Parish meeting.

Chair's Statement 2021/2022

This is my first report as Chair of Biddenham Parish Council, taking over from Peter Chase last year after he completed a 6-year stint in the role. I have to repeat here what I have said before - he was a real asset to the Parish and continues to be so in his role as Vice-Chair.

I'm pleased to say that I believe we remain an active and productive council, making the most of the limited powers we have. I am encouraged that members of the public are prepared to give up their time and feel comfortable attending our meetings to share their concerns and issues; some of which we can deal with directly and some where we can only seek to influence the actions of others. I am fully aware that attending parish council meetings doesn't make any list of the top ten things to do locally so thank you to those who attend.

Let's reflect on the past year.

Gold Lane development and Planning: One of the most apparent changes this year in the village has been the commencement of building works at the Dandara development on Gold Lane. Starting with less positive news, our suggested improved road layout for the development access point was rejected on the grounds of the extra cost related to the redesign and resubmission to planning. In fact, the access point has been a concern even during development with construction vehicles regularly missing the Deep Spinney entrance and having to turn around on Gold Lane – lobbying both the borough council and the developer for better signage has proved successful and we hope this has improved the situation.

Looking more positively, the borough council and developer accepted the suggested historical names for the new streets that will form part of the first phase of the development. The suggested names came from a detailed proposal from a local resident, which set out some history to the site and, based on this, proposed themed names for the streets (full details are on our website).

We were also recently sent the preliminary report on the archaeological excavations at the site, which revealed rich archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the late Anglo-Saxon periods; we hope to have an interpretation board erected in the future detailing these finds.

This hasn't been the only planning item we've looked at this year. We have also reviewed and acted as a consultee on approximately 89 separate planning applications.

Highways: Our placement of temporary Speed Indication Devices (SID) and our fixed SID, in place just east of Windmill Hill on Bromham Road, highlighted that almost half of all traffic is speeding and there were some disturbing top speeds recorded. This has meant your parish council's view of **average speed cameras** (ASC) has had to change. We don't like the unnecessary introduction of such things, but it cannot be denied – we have a problem and ASC's are the only long term effective solution. We have requested to be on the Borough Council's list of schemes however, I suspect it may be many years before the borough council implement such a scheme locally – perhaps I'll be proved wrong.

After some pressure the borough council also agreed to move the **30mph signs** at the Bromham Road/Deep Spinney roundabout. These signs are practically invisible to drivers going towards town, and end up with some being unclear what the limit is. Moving of the signage has been agreed and is now on an (apparently long) list of work for BBC Highways.

Following a village-wide survey, which showed strong support for a **20mph limit**, and after discussions with the borough council, they have agreed to introduce a 20mph speed limit throughout the Deep Spinney area. They estimate this should receive funding in this financial year.

A resident of the village, who is a professional in the field of traffic management, has suggested the installation of three **refuges** at various points along Bromham Road i.e., places in the middle of the road where you can stand as you cross from one side to the other. This should have the effect of calming traffic and also provide safer places where people naturally want to cross the road. The parish council supported this idea and funded a feasibility study: we have received a first draft and have requested clarification of a number of points. We expect the likely outcome is that the report will confirm the refuges will be doable and contribute to road safety – the next hurdle is finding the money for the work.

Grants: The parish council is keen to support local voluntary groups and seeks to do so by providing parish council grants.

These benefit parishioners by ensuring that voluntary organisations and services are able to keep functioning and can also provide assistance those that are newly formed. This year we granted £450 to The Friends of Biddenham Village Pond for a shed in which to store their equipment, and £530 to the group for a new mower; £157 to the Biddenham Conservation Volunteers group for insurance; £500 to Beds Police Partnership Trust to support the 'Bobby Van' who provide ring doorbells for the above 65s for exclusive use in Biddenham; and £1,500 for a defibrillator at the Kingsfield Sports Facility.

Other items of spend have included a new memorial bench at Kings Corner, a noticeboard for St Mary's, the replacement of all the windows in the Main Road bus shelter, a deep clean of the war memorial, a new Christmas tree and pit for St Mary's, and the erection of the Ukrainian flag at the village flagpole.

New trees for Biddenham: One particularly satisfying project for me has been the planting of 40 new trees around Biddenham as part of the '*Trees For Streets*' initiative; we have received a positive response to these and I plan to ask the parish council to consider more in the coming year if the scheme is repeated.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): As we look to the coming year, we are aware we need to think big about the use of the CIL payments we will receive in relation to the Gold Lane development. CIL is an important tool to help deliver infrastructure to support development in an area. We remain, as ever, open to ideas from the public and are exploring ways in which we can involve you in the process.

...Which leads me to remind you all that every parish council meeting starts with a public open session. This is an opportunity for members of the public to raise issues of concern or suggestions. Everyone and anyone is welcome – just turn up!

Finally, I'd like to pass on my gratitude to David Brough, our Clerk, who has been a great help to me during my first year, to all of my fellow councillors who have given up their time voluntarily and our two Borough Councillors, Jon and Roger who have supported and helped us.